

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: PLANNING APPLICATION PA-07-24

1340 LOGAN AVENUE, SUITE A

DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WENDY SHIH, ASSISTANT PLANNER

(714) 754-5136

DESCRIPTION

Applicant proposes to legalize an antique automobile restoration business in the front unit of an existing industrial building. Included is a request to legalize outdoor storage behind the building.

APPLICANT

Carolyn Russell is the authorized agent for WKR Properties, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve by adoption of Planning Commission resolution, subject to conditions.

WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, AICP

Principal Planner

KIMBERLY BRANDT AICP

Asst. Development Services Director

BACKGROUND

The business consists of the restoration of vintage and antique automobiles. The business owner states that he restores one or two cars a year and, occasionally, he builds or restores a car for someone else and stores antique cars inside the shop to help pay rent and utilities. He does minor fabrication and supplies aftermarket restoration-related parts and materials. Upholstery, paint and powder coating are all subcontracted out. The business owner chose this location because of its proximity to other, autorelated services. The business is low-key, with only one part time employee working in the shop in addition to the owner.

Because automotive repair can adversely impact residential neighbors with noise and odors, any type of automobile repair requires a conditional use permit if located within 200 feet of a residential zone; this property abuts residentially-zoned and developed property to the north.

While researching this request, staff found miscellaneous items stored behind the building. Because the storage covers required parking, a minor conditional use permit is required and was included as part of this CUP request to streamline processing.

ANALYSIS

Conditional Use Permit

The business is located in suite A, at the front of the property, and is separated from the residences to the north by a second suite (B), which is occupied by a woodworking/hobby shop and an approximately 64-foot deep parking lot (currently covered by miscellaneous items). The applicant states that the use has been operating for approximately one year. Staff can find no complaints regarding the use.

It is staff's opinion that approval of the conditional use permit should not adversely impact the neighbors, including the residents to the north, because the use generates little customer traffic with the more intensive repair (body and paint work) subcontracted to offsite locations. Furthermore, other automotive repair uses exists along Logan Avenue.

Minor Conditional Use Permit

Outdoor storage, including miscellaneous items such as cars and an RV, cover required parking behind the building. Planning staff visited the site on several occasions and found that adequate parking exists in front of the building to support the businesses. The outdoor storage can be screened from view by a combination of non-opaque fencing (such as a block wall on the rear property line) and the building. However, there have been occasions where storage items have been placed in the front parking lot or not entirely behind the building.

Since adequate parking appears to exist for the businesses, staff is in support of the request, based on compliance with the proposed conditions limiting storage to directly behind the building and its removal if a need for additional parking arises.

Additional Discussion

A minor conditional use permit to legalize the outdoor storage behind the building has also been filed for the adjoining property at 1346 Logan Avenue and is scheduled for the December 6, 2007 Zoning Administrator decision date. As of the publication of this report, the Zoning Administrator felt that the request could be approved, based on the same justifications presented by staff for the outdoor storage proposed under this application.

GENERAL PLAN CONFORMITY

Due to the size of the building in relation to the lot, low traffic generating uses are the only type of businesses permitted in the building to allow compliance with the floor area ratio parameters of the General Plan. Because of the limited nature of the business, staff considers the automobile restoration use a low traffic generator and believes the restoration business is compatible with the General Plan.

Conditions of approval are included limiting the business to its current operational mode to ensure the business remains a low traffic generator.

ALTERNATIVES

Planning Commission denial of the conditional use permit and/or the minor conditional use permit would require the discontinuation of the business and/or the outdoor storage.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301.

CONCLUSION

The automobile restoration use has been operating for approximately a one year with no complaints. The limited nature of the business and its separation from the residentially-zoned property to the north by building, vehicular areas, and a wall should allow it to continue without impact. Other automotive repair uses exists along Logan Avenue. Adequate parking exists to support the existing businesses, even with the outdoor storage. The outdoor storage should not impact subject or surrounding properties if conducted in compliance with the conditions of approval.

Attachments: Draft Planning Commission Resolution

Exhibit "A" - Draft Findings

Exhibit "B" - Draft Conditions of Approval

Applicant's Project Description and Justification

Location Map

Plans

Distribution: Deputy City Mgr.-Dev. Svs. Director

Sr. Deputy City Attorney Public Services Director

City Engineer

Fire Protection Analyst

Staff (4) File (2)

Carolyn Russell WKR Properties P.O. Box 4280

Costa Mesa, CA 92628-4280

Carolyn Russell 843 Sonora Road

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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RESOLUTION NO. PC-

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA APPROVING PLANNING APPLICATION PA-07-24

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, an application was filed by Carolyn Russell, authorized agent WKR Enterprises with respect to the real property located at 1340 Logan Avenue, requesting approval of conditional use permit for automobile restoration in suite A and a minor conditional use permit for outdoor storage behind the building in the MG zone; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on December 10, 2007.

BE IT RESOLVED that, based on the evidence in the record and the findings contained in Exhibit "A", and subject to the conditions contained in Exhibit "B", the Planning Commission hereby **APPROVES** Planning Application PA-07-24 with respect to the property described above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Costa Mesa Planning Commission does hereby find and determine that adoption of this Resolution is expressly predicated upon the activity as described in the Staff Report for Planning Application PA-07-24 and upon applicant's compliance with each and all of the conditions contained in Exhibit "B", as well as with compliance of all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Any approval granted by this resolution shall be subject to review, modification or revocation if there is a material change that occurs in the operation, or if the applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions of approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of December, 2007.

Donn Hall, Chair, Costa Mesa Planning Commission

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)ss
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, Kimberly Brandt, secretary to the Planning Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a meeting of the City of Costa Mesa Planning Commission held on December 10, 2007, by the following votes:

AYES:

COMMISSIONERS

NOES:

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT:

COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN:

COMMISSIONERS

Secretary, Costa Mesa Planning Commission

EXHIBIT "A"

FINDINGS

- A. The information presented substantially complies with Costa Mesa Municipal Code section 13-29(g)(2) in that the proposed auto restoration use is substantially compatible with developments in the same general area. Granting the conditional use permit will not be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public or other properties or improvements within the immediate vicinity. Specifically, the limited nature of the business and its separation from the residentially-zoned property to the north by building, vehicular areas, and a wall should allow it to continue without impact. Other automotive repair uses exists along Logan Avenue. Granting the conditional use permit will not allow use, density or intensity which is not in accordance with the general plan designation for the property because the use is a low-traffic generating use, which fits within the floor area ratio parameters applicable to the property.
- B. The information presented substantially complies with Costa Mesa Municipal Code section 13-29(g)(2) in that the proposed outdoor storage is substantially compatible with developments in the same general area. Granting the minor conditional use permit will not be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public or other properties or improvements within the immediate vicinity. Specifically, adequate parking exists to support the businesses, even with the outdoor storage. The outdoor storage should not impact subject or surrounding properties if conducted in compliance with the conditions of approval. Granting the minor conditional use permit will not allow use, density or intensity which is not in accordance with the general plan designation for the property.
- C. The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and the City environmental procedures, and has been found to be exempt from CEQA.
- D. The project is exempt from Chapter XII, Article 3, Transportation System Management. Of Title 13 of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code.

EXHIBIT "B"

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

- Plng. 1. The conditional use permit and minor conditional use permit herein approved shall be valid until revoked. However, the conditional use permit and minor conditional use permit shall expire at the end of one (1) year unless a business license is obtained and/or the business legally commences or the applicant applies for and is granted an extension of time. The conditional use permit and minor conditional use permit may be referred to the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator, respectively, for modification or revocation at any time if the conditions of approval have not been complied with, if the use is operated in violation of applicable laws or ordinances or, if in the opinion of the Development Services Director or his designee, any of the findings upon which the approval was based are no longer applicable.
 - A copy of the conditions of approval for the conditional use permit
 and minor conditional use permit must be kept on premises and
 presented to any authorized City official upon request. New
 business/property owners shall be notified of conditions of approval
 upon transfer of business or ownership of land.
 - Outdoor storage shall be limited to entirely behind the building. No items shall be stored in the parking lot in front of the building and stored items shall not be visible from the public street. Items shall not be stacked above the height of the surrounding walls/fences. Hazardous materials are prohibited from storage in this area without prior approval from the City of Costa Mesa.
 - If problems arise with the amount of available on-site parking, the applicant shall resolve the situation, including the removal of the outdoor storage, if necessary.
 - 5. The automotive restoration business shall be limited to:
 - a. The restoration of antique automobiles, with a maximum of two cars per year;
 - b. A maximum of 1 employee in addition to the business owner;
 - Minor fabrication and supplying aftermarket restoration relatedparts and materials; and
 - d. Minor work. More intensive work such as upholstery, painting, powder coating, and body work shall be conducted off-site at another facility.

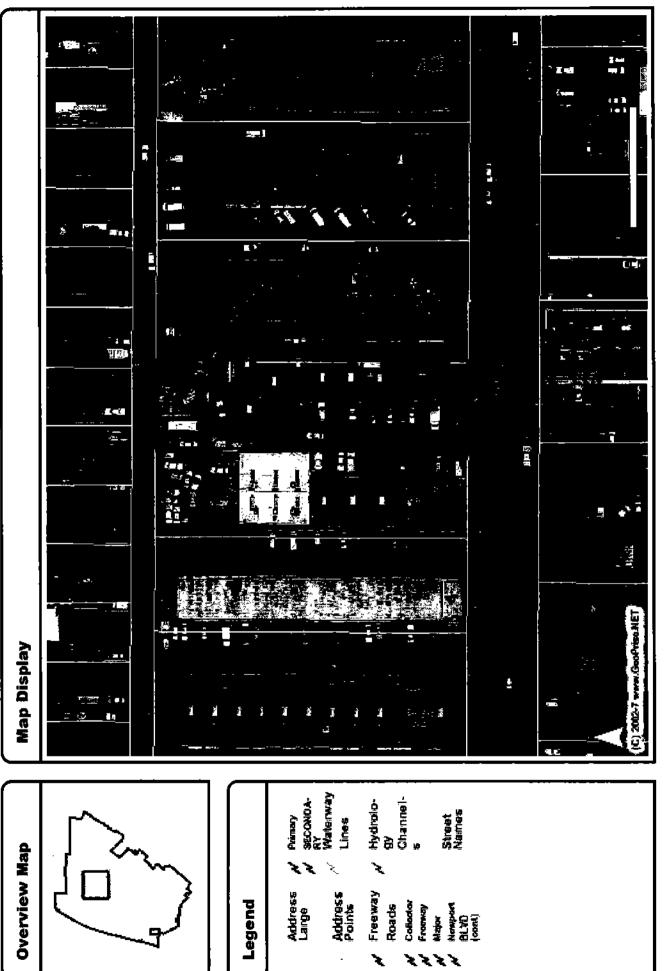
Duffy Enterprises is a small shop with one part time employee I restore antique cars mostly for myself. I restore one or two cars a year. Occasionally I build or restore a car for someone else to help pay for the rent and utilities. I also rent floor space for antique car storage. For all practical intents and purposes it is a hobby shop / storage unit. I mainly want the Logan Ave. location for its close proximity to other auto related services. I am not a drive in auto repair station. I do some minor fabrication and supplying of aftermarket restoration related parts and materials. There is an extremely low volume of cars passing through the shop, three or for cars a year. Upholstery, paint and powder coating are all subcontracted out. I keep a very clean shop with very little traffic, make no noise, and do not work late at night and no impact on the environment and surrounding area

Regards Ed Duffy

Duffy Enterprises 2542 Elden Ave Costa Mesa CA. 92627 949-646-0561

City of Costa Mesa

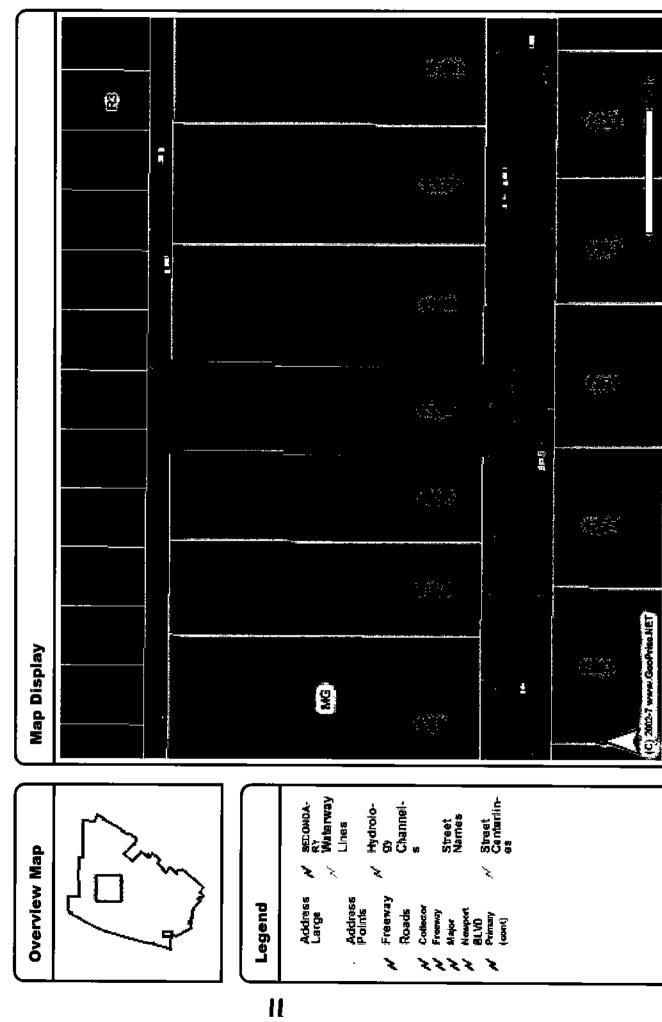
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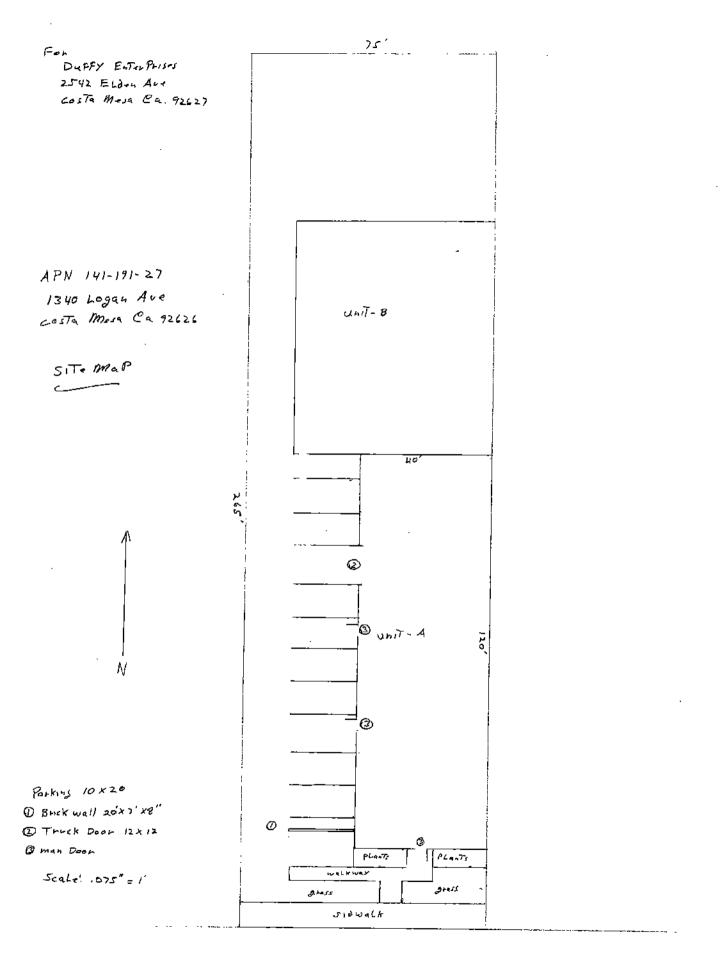
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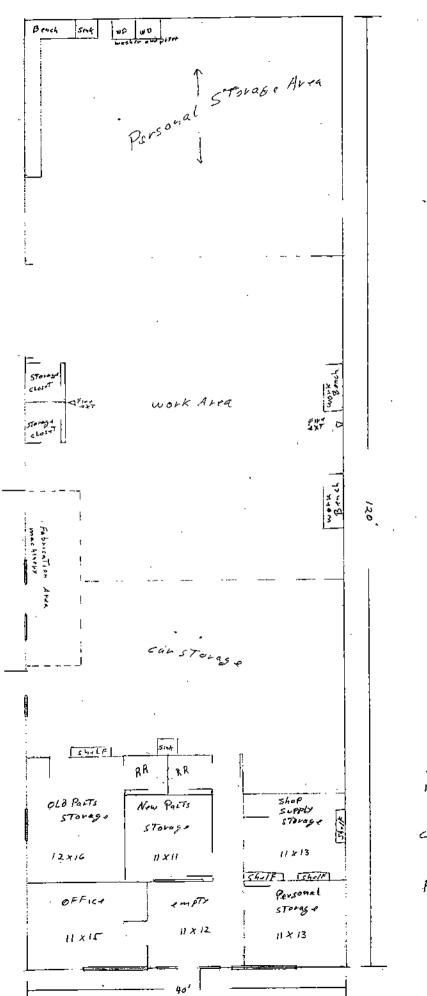
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APN 141-191-27 1340 Logan Ave UniT-A Costa Mosa Ca 92626

FLOOR Plan